free. However, no adverse impact of the duty-free imports of these items on Indian farmers has come to notice. With a view to safeguarding the interest of domestic farmers, Government is closely monitoring the imports of agricultural commodities and whenever a surge in the import of any commodity is noticed, immediate steps can be taken to raise the import tariff thereon within the bound rates. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture further provides for taking other measures such as anti-dumping action, safeguard actions and imposition of countervailing duties in order to provide protection to the domestic farmers under certain specified circumstances.

Sale of adulterated vegetables

†3790. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's reaction on the news-item published on 26th August, 2000 in the "Navbharat Times" under the caption, "Sabziyon ko kritrim rang lagakar khule-aam becha ja raha hai";

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard and whether any action has been taken against any seller on the basis of the outcome of the said inquiry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955 no synthetic food colours, including even those permitted for use in food are allowed to be used in fresh fruits, vegetables, pulses, saunf and spices. Violation of the provisions of PFA Rules, 1955 are punishable. The Directorate General of Health Services in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been advising the State/Union Territory Government to be vigilant and take necessary action against those involved in adulteration

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

practices. Action in this regard is to be taken by the concerned State/ Union Territory Governments.

Development of Agriculture in North-East

3791. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a plan for development of agriculture in the North-Eastern States, so that they achieve food self sufficiency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in North Eastern States for the development of agriculture and towards achieving self-sufficiency. A list of schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the region is given in the Statement (*See* below). In addition, a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern Region is proposed to be launched shortly.

Statement

Details of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in North Eastern States

S. No.	Name of the Schemes
*1.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme—Rice.
*2.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
*3.	Special Jute Development Programme.
4.	National Pulses Development Project.
5.	Oilseed Production Programme.
6.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme.